

## **Program Announcements (PA'S)**

### **MINORITY TRAVEL AWARD PROGRAM**

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National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK)  
National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases (NIAMS)

#### **DESCRIPTION**

The Minority Travel Award Program (MTAP) provides support for minority students and faculty members of minority institutions to attend national scientific meetings.

Any NIDDK or NIAMS grantee wishing to obtain such travel funds for minority students and/or faculty may submit a supplemental grant application. Minority students may be from any domestic institution. Faculty must be from a minority institution. Approved applications will be funded as supplements to active grants. Such grants include individual project (R01, R29, R37), program project (P01), and center (P30, P50, P60) grants.

#### **OBJECTIVES**

The MTAP is part of an overall NIDDK and NIAMS effort to strengthen biomedical research and training in institutions with significant commitments to minorities and to increase the awareness and participation of minority scientists in biomedical research. The MTAP supports minority students and faculty from minority institutions to accompany principal investigators currently funded by NIDDK or NIAMS grants to scientific meetings. The MTAP is intended for minority students at various stages of academic development and for faculty members at minority institutions who have not been principal investigators on NIH regular research grants. The MTAP is intended to enhance awareness of biomedical research opportunities and to influence more minority students/faculty to become interested and involved in research and research training.

#### **DEFINITIONS, ELIGIBILITY AND TERMS OF AWARD**

##### **1. Minority Student**

A minority student is defined as anyone of the underrepresented minorities (including but not limited to Blacks, Hispanics, American Indians, and Pacific

Islanders) at any stage of academic achievement (including but not limited to undergraduate, predoctoral, and postdoctoral students).

## 2. Minority Faculty

A minority faculty member is defined as a full-time faculty member of a minority institution who is interested or engaged in biomedical research. The minority investigator should not have been a principal investigator on any regular research grant from NIH. This does not exclude from candidacy minority faculty who have been supported by the NIH Minority Biomedical Research Support (MBRS) Program, the Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) Program, training grants, fellowships, or other similar awards.

## 3. Minority Institution

A minority institution is defined as a medical or non-medical college, university, or equivalent school in which students of underrepresented minorities, as defined above, comprise the majority or significant proportion of the school enrollment.

## 4. Principal Investigator

Principal investigators of active NIDDK or NIAMS grants are eligible to submit supplemental applications on behalf of a minority student and/or faculty member. The principal investigator (or other designated senior investigator on the grant) is expected to serve as a guide or mentor for the student or faculty member while at the scientific meeting.

## 5. Travel Funds

Funds requested in the supplemental application are intended to support the minority student and/or faculty member while accompanying the principal investigator or designated senior investigator to a national scientific meeting. Travel funds can include air and ground transportation, a per diem allowance, and registration fees associated with the meeting.

## 6. Scientific Meeting

A scientific meeting in the context of this program is defined as any national scientific meeting related to the interests of NIDDK or NIAMS.

## 7. Other Considerations

In general, applications and awards are limited to travel to one meeting per student and/or minority faculty member per year. Supplemental applications should be submitted for a duration to coincide with the end of the appropriate budget period. An amount not to exceed \$1,000 travel expenses per individual

may be requested. The specific budget items must be justified in the application. If circumstances indicate that these limitations must be exceeded, a special justification should be included in the application.

## 8. Travel Report

In order to evaluate the effectiveness of this program, the minority student or faculty member is requested to prepare a brief report for submission through the principal investigator. This report is due 30 days after returning from the meeting and is to be sent to the appropriate Institute contact person listed below. In addition, the report should be included in the annual and/or final grant progress report. The travel report should include but not be limited to the following elements:

- a) Name, location, and general description of the meeting.
- b) A listing of papers and symposia found to be of special interest.
- c) Tangible and intangible benefits derived from attendance.
- d) Suggestions for improvement of the MTAP to make the meeting experience more rewarding for the individual and his/her biomedical research goals.

## PROJECT EVALUATION AND REVIEW CRITERIA

Applications submitted in response to this announcement will be reviewed for eligibility by the NIDDK/NIAMS Minority Affairs Advisory Committee, a committee of intramural and extramural staff, using the following criteria:

### 1. For Minority Students:

- o Completion of the sophomore year in college, or enrollment in a predoctoral or postdoctoral program (exceptions will be considered if justification is furnished);
- o Overall grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale;
- o Recommendation from one science faculty member or researcher other than the principal investigator;
- o A brief written statement of interest in attending the meeting, benefits to be derived, and long-range professional plans.

### 2. For Faculty at Minority Institutions:

- o A brief written statement indicating research interests, benefits to be

derived by attendance at the meeting, and long-range professional plans;

- o Two letters of recommendation from the institution, including one from the Dean or Department Chairperson.

## FUNDING

Successful applications will be funded as administrative supplements to the investigator's NIDDK or NIAMS grant. Funds awarded under this program are for the sole purpose of facilitating participation of minority students and faculty as described above.

## HOW TO APPLY

Potential applicants are encouraged to contact the NIDDK or NIAMS program contact person listed below prior to preparing an application.

The principal investigator must submit a supplemental grant application through his/her institution on the standard form PHS 398 (Rev. 9/86), and should include only the following: (1) face page--item 2 should give the grant number of the active grant and specifically state "Minority Travel Award Program" (for example: Grant Number R01DK12345-06, "Minority Travel Award Program"); (2) budget page; (3) complete curricula vitae of the principal investigator and of the individual for whom support is being requested; and (4) information addressing the review criteria described above.

Applications may be submitted at any time. The requested start date for the supplemental application should be at least 90 days after the date of submission.

The original and six copies of the application should be sent to:

Dr. Anthony Demsey  
Deputy Director, Division of Extramural Activities  
National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases  
Westwood Building, Room 406  
National Institutes of Health  
Bethesda, Maryland 20892  
Telephone: (301) 496-7083

Dr. Steven Hausman  
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National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases  
Westwood Building, Room 403  
National Institutes of Health  
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